

### Remarks

Claims 7-11, 13, and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 4,742,512 (“Akashi”).

Independent claim 7 recites 1) receiving, from each of multiple electronic devices, a predicted duration of a length of a subsequent transmission from the respective electronic device; and 2) organizing those devices into groups having similar predicted durations for the subsequent data transmissions. Akashi col. 8 line 58 – col. 9 line 47 is cited in the rejection as teaching all of this. (In fact, these same exact passages are cited as teaching all the limitations of each claim 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.) However, a close review of Akashi reveals no such teachings. Although Akashi organizes devices into groups of two (col. 9 lines 1- 6), this organizing is not based on similar predicted durations. In fact, Akashi does not suggest what the organizing might be based on, other than the result should be groups of two. Withdrawal of this rejection of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-10 and 13-14 each depends, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 7, and therefore contains the same limitations not disclosed or suggested by the cited reference.

In addition to the limitations of claim 7, claim 8 also recites that the transmissions containing the predicted durations are received substantially simultaneously. Again, Akashi col. 8 line 58 – col. 9 line 47 is cited in the rejection as teaching this. But Akashi does not even discuss this. Akashi only talks about simultaneous transmissions in the context of their causing collisions (col. 9 line 36), an undesirable error condition that prevents at least one of the transmissions from being received.

Claims 15, 17, 21, and 23 have been held allowable by the Examiner. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

### **Conclusion**

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and indication of allowance by the Examiner is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he or she is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number shown below as soon as possible. If any fee insufficiency or overpayment is found, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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